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New combinations in *Vachellia* Wight & Arn., formerly *Acacia* Mill. s.s. (Fabaceae)

Riassunto - Nuove combinazioni in *Vachellia* Wight & Arn., ex *Acacia* Mill. s.s. (Fabaceae).

Sulla base dei recenti progressi nella filogenesi delle Fabaceae, particolarmente i risultati dei sequenziamenti nucleotidici, il vecchio genere *Acacia* viene oggi ripartito in almeno 5 generi, dei quali *Vachellia* interessa una specie naturalizzata in Italia e altre due rappresentate nelle sale espositive del Museo di Storia Naturale di Milano. Per tali entità vengono proposte le nuove combinazioni *V. karroo* (Hayne) Banfi & Galasso, *V. tortilis* (Forssk.) Galasso & Banfi and *V. xanthophloea* (Benth.) Banfi & Galasso.

Parole chiave: *Vachellia*, *Acacia*, nomenclatura.

Recent detailed investigations on cpDNA nucleotide sequences (Robinson & Harris, 2000; Clarke *et al.*, 2000; Miller & Bayer, 2001, 2003; Miller *et al.*, 2003; Maslin *et al.*, 2003; Luckow *et al.*, 2003; Seigler *et al.*, 2006) have shown that the genus *Acacia* is polyphyletic and the emerging groups deserve generic status, widening the framework already outlined by Pedley (1986) on a morphological basis. Orchard & Maslin (2003) asked for a new typification of the generic name *Acacia* to bypass the need of a terrifying lot of nomenclatural changes. The Committee for Spermatophyta (Brummitt, 2004) picked up the suggestion, resulting in the type of the genus being changed from the African species *A. scorpioides* (L.) W.Wight (= *A. nilotica* (L.) Delile) to the Australian one *A. penninervis* Sieber ex DC. (the same of *Racosperma* Mart.). Thus at least five genera result from the disintegration of *Acacia* s.l.: *Acacia* Mill. (about 1.000 spp.), *Acaciella* Britton & Rose (15 spp.), *Mariosousa* Seigler & Ebinger (13 spp.), *Senegalia* Raf. (203 spp.) and *Vachellia* Wight & Arn. (ex-*Acacia* s.s.: 161 spp.).

Nomenclatural combinations in *Vachellia* have been done by some authors (Seigler & Ebinger, 2006; Kodela & Wilson, 2006) that involve American as well as Australian species, but little attention was given to the African and Asian ones. Stipular prickles and bipinnate leaves characterize the genus *Vachellia*. In order to have correct names for the species involved in Italian flora treatment and to add two more African species (*A. tortilis* and *A. xanthophloea*) absent in Italy, but on display in the exhibition halls of the Museo di Storia Naturale di Milano, new combinations are established here as follows:

Vachellia karroo (Hayne) Banfi & Galasso, **comb. nov.** (bas.: *Acacia karroo* Hayne, *Getreue Darstell. Gew.*, 10: tab. 33. 1827).

Vachellia tortilis (Forssk.) Galasso & Banfi, **comb. nov.** (bas.: *Mimosa tortilis* Forssk., *Fl. Aegypt.-Arab.*: 176. 1775).

Vachellia xanthophloea (Benth.) Banfi & Galasso, **comb. nov.** (bas.: *Acacia xanthophloea* Benth., *Trans. Linn. Soc. London*, 30 (3): 511. 1875).

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